

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 TRSE-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05

AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05

FMC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 /143 W

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R 061100Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO US MISSION GENEVA 27

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5267

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 788

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, YE

SUBJ: LOS: SUPPORT FOR UNIMPEDED TRANSIT OF STRAITS

GENEVA FOR USDEL LOS

REF: GENEVA 2287

1. OUR IMPRESSION FROM PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESIDENCY
LEGAL ADVISOR HUSAIN AL-HUBAISHI, WHO NOW HEADING YARG DELEGATION
AT LOS CONFERENCE IS THAT YAR POSITION IS FLEXIBLE ON SUBSTANCE.
MAIN YARG CONCERN IS TACTICAL AND POLITICAL: AS SAMLL WEAK ARAB STAT
E

IT DOES NOT WANT TO BE CAUGHT IN CONTROVERSIAL POSITION. IN PARTICULAR,

IT DOES NOT WANT TO BE ACCUSED BY RADICAL PDRY REGIME OF SELLING
OUT "ARAB HERITAGE" IN BAB AL-MANDEB. SINCE THIS SEEN IN CONTEXT
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POSSIBLE FUTURE ARAB MILITARY HOSTILITIES WITH ISRAEL,

EMPHASIS IN YARG POSITION, AS WE UNDERSTAND
IT, IS ON SOME
LIMITATION ON WARSHIPS, E.G. UNDERTAKING TO GIVE ADVANCE NOTIFICATION
TO COASTAL STATE.

2. YARG POSITION SOMEWHAT COMPLICATED BY FACT THAT IN PAST MODERATES
IN PERSIAN GULF (IRAN AND OMAN, ACCORDING TO HUBAISHI)
HAVE ADVOCATED MORE RESTRICTED APPROACH OF INNOCENT PASSAGE,
WHILE RADICAL IRAQ HAS CHAMPIONED UNIMPEDED TRANSIT.

3. HUBAISHI TOLD US BEFORE LEAVING THAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS
WERE FLEXIBLE AND CAUTIOUS, I.E. SEE WHICH WAY ARAB CONSENSUS
WAS DEVELOPING BEFORE COMMITTING HIMSELF. IN PARTICULAR WE BELIEVE
EGYPT WILL BE KEY. IF GOE DELEGATION CAN BE WON OVER, THIS WILL
MAKE IT MUCH EASIER FOR YARG TO FOLLOW.

4. EMBASSY HAS ALWAYS ENJOYED WARM AND FRANK RELATIONSHIP WITH
HUBAISHI. SUGGEST DELEGATION HAVE EARLY TALK WITH HIM ALONG
LINES FOREGOING.
SCOTES

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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